

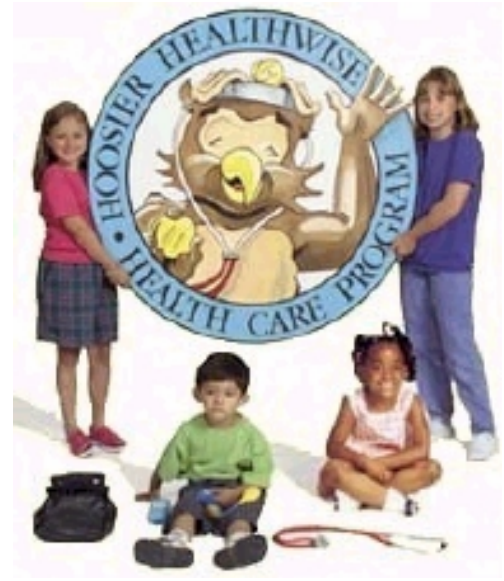
Medical Assistance

Mission

To provide high quality, cost-effective health care services for Hoosiers in need, and to promote and protect public health.

Summary of Activities

Medical assistance programs provide access to health care for underinsured and uninsured individuals. Those services include physician services, prescription drug assistance, immunizations, nursing home care and public education and outreach. The **Family and Social Services Administration** (FSSA) oversees the Medicaid program, which provides health coverage to low-income persons. The Hoosier Healthwise program, a component of Medicaid, provides free and low-cost comprehensive health care services to children, pregnant women, and low-income adults. The coverage includes primary, preventative, and specialty medical care. Legislation in 1999 created the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and expanded Hoosier Healthwise eligibility to uninsured children in households with incomes less than 200% of the federal poverty level. In June 2003, 593,206 people received healthcare coverage through Hoosier Healthwise, of which 477,709 (81%) were children. Medicaid also provides a wide range of health care services to non-institutionalized aged, blind, and disabled persons. In FY 2003, Medicaid spent \$2.2 billion on non- long term care services. The HoosierRx Program continues to provide prescription drugs to seniors based on need and income level.



The Indiana Comprehensive Health Insurance Association (ICHIA) was created by 1981 legislation and continues to act as a safety net for Indiana citizens that are unable to obtain medical coverage in the open market. The association offers a comprehensive medical coverage package to qualified individuals.

FSSA continues to collaborate with the **Indiana State Department of Health** (ISDH) to administer the First Steps program, which provides services to infants and toddlers under age three who have developmental delays. From April 2002 to March 2003 First Steps served 18,792 children. ISDH administers the AIDS Drug Assistance Program and other medical assistance programs specialized for the HIV/AIDS population. The Children's Special Health Care Services program at the ISDH continues to provide primary, specialty, dental, prescription coverage, speech, occupational, and physical therapy, and travel reimbursement services to children who are financially and medically in need of care as a result of a chronic illness or disability. The ISDH also coordinates programs to promote the early detection of breast, cervical, and prostate cancer.

These programs are in addition to medical services provided by FSSA's, ISDH's, and the Department of Correction's institutions.

External Factors

Medicaid enrollment increases during periods of low or negative personal income growth. As such, over the past biennium, Medicaid enrollment increased significantly, driven primarily by the weak economy. The sharp climb in enrollment combined with increases in medical inflation, the advance of new medical technologies, and development of new pharmaceuticals have created sizeable budget pressures, resulting in the need to implement aggressive cost containment measures.

Evaluation and Accomplishments

FSSA and ISDH have an ongoing partnership to promote high quality health care and services for the children and families of Indiana. Hoosier Healthwise customer satisfaction surveys continue to show a high satisfaction rate. In the 2002 survey, 92% of those surveyed rated the program as “good” or “very good.”

In 2002, Medicaid expanded the managed care program to include recipients who are aged, blind and disabled. The program, *Medicaid Select*, works with community partners to ensure that aged, blind and disabled recipients continue to receive quality medical care in a more coordinated manner. Another new program implemented in 2002 that is designed to help disabled recipients is the MEDWorks program. MEDWorks allows disabled individuals who are employed to buy-in to Medicaid and continue to receive medical service.

In 2003, Medicaid and ISDH implemented the Indiana Chronic Disease Management Program (ICDMP). The ICDMP helps Medicaid recipients with chronic illness, such as diabetes, congestive heart failure or asthma, better manage their health by working with nurse care managers and receiving patient self-management training. The ICDMP earned the Improving Chronic Illness Care Vision Award, sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. ICHIA also maintains a chronic disease management program.

Plans for the Biennium

A key priority for this biennium is to improve health care utilization, quality, and outcomes. The ICDMP will be a major area of focus and will expand to include Hypertension, Stroke, and HIV/AIDS. FSSA and ISDH will also strive to increase pediatric and dental provider access for Indiana’s underserved populations and to continue increasing well child visits, vaccination, and lead screening rates for children. Steadfast in his commitment to help seniors with the increasing costs of prescription drugs, Governor Kernan will continue to support the HoosierRx program and ensure that this program is revised to work with the recently passed federal Medicare legislation. Another key initiative of this biennium is the Indiana Long Term Care Insurance Program (ILTCIP). The ILTCIP offers Hoosiers a chance to purchase long term care insurance and protect their assets should they need long term care in the future. Indiana is one of only four states to offer Medicaid asset protection, and FSSA is committed to increasing the number of ILTCIP policyholders by 15,000 over this biennium.

